"Changing men's common way of thinking" or the encyclopedic challenge today

Athanasios Sideris





University of Economics, Prague Foundation of the Hellenic World (1998-2013)







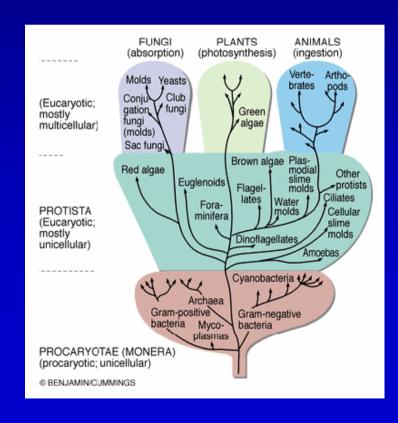
The encyclopedic concept in brief

Historical and Cultural Encyclopedias

The effort to document and organize knowledge in a structured system aiming the representation of the past

- Aristotelian knowledge organization
- Taxonomic and organizational work in the Library of Alexandria
- Plotinus, Porphyry and the knowledge tree

Porphyry's tree, modern taxonomy & semantics





The encyclopedic concept in brief

Mediaeval and renaissance revivals

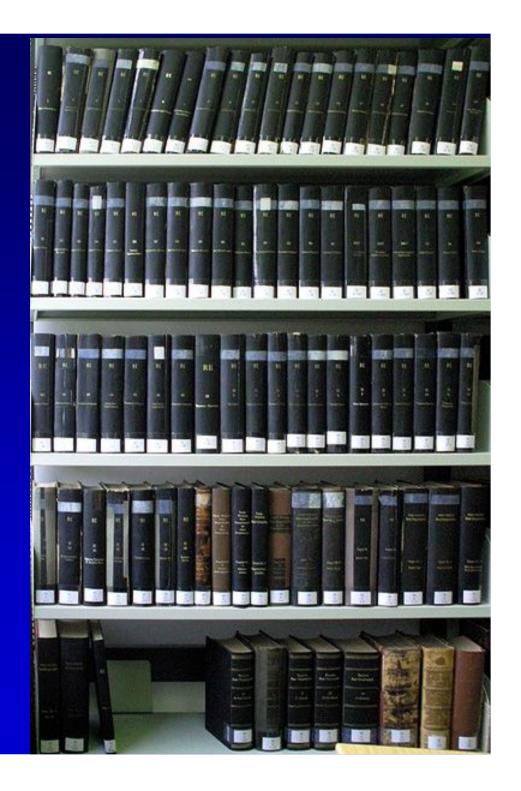
- The Encyclopedia of Lights
 - Diderot and the "Changing of men's common way of thinking"

The century-long printed projects

Realencyclopädie der Classischen Altertumswissenschaft

1890-1978

83 volumes



Encyclopedic knowledge & knowledge theory

- Linguistics and semiotics
- Psychology
- Logic and mathematics
- Computer science
- Main contributors
 - Michel Bréal
 - Gottlob Frege
 - John Perry
 - Alfred Tarski
 - Ludwig Wittgenstein

Noam Chomsky Jürgen Habermas Bertrand Russell Ramón Trujillo

Semantics for encyclopedias

Gödel's incompleteness theorems

- "No consistent system of axioms, whose theorems can be listed by an effective procedure (complex and standardized system), is capable of demonstrating its own consistency"
- This self-referential weakness has been attempted to cure with the organization of meta-systems, especially with the organization of a meta-system, which considers the semantic systems of history and culture as <u>systems-objects</u>.

Tarski's logic

- "There is no semantic system which can fully explain itself"

Digital technologies, the Web and Humanities

- Non-linear structure of information / knowledge
- Visualization principles (each image "is a story")
- Enabling the use of "new sources" (video, sound, etc.)
- Innovative space and way of publication (the work looses its immobility and definitiveness and it becomes dynamic)
- Enabling actualization of the content
- Access available to a far larger and more diversified audience
- The audience may react (comment, ask, contribute, etc.)

Contextuality & Intertextuality

- The historical, cultural or geographic information may be seen within its broader context.
- The active linking to other digital depositories, DB, encyclopedias or simple pages enables a cross-reference approach rendering the knowledge essentially intertextual (*interknowledge*).

Content requirements

- Multiple historical & cultural discourses
- More forms of event sequences
- Different definition networks
- Varying importance hierarchies
- Multiple fields of validity

Authorship and copyrights

Content requirements

Relational and referential systems

Hierarchy, dominance, escalation, strict determinism, circular causality

Cultural continuity and discontinuity, event components, criteria of periodicity, regionality vs. universality

Scale up and scale down in time and space – "babushka effect" in entities, composite entities by elements/chapters of other entities

Content requirements

- The sources as a live feeding
- Multiple paths may cause a "vertigo" effect in navigation – Need for navigation maps!
- ("classical" techniques of pop-ups, jumping forward and backward, enumeration of the invisible items to follow, etc.)
- Constant administration editorship

Form & Scope

- Scientific
- Educational
- Broader public
- Entertaining

Field definition
Scientific accuracy, validity and completeness
Attractiveness and viability

Form & Scope

- Language issues (multilingual, automated translations, volunteers contributions)
- Traditional organization of the matter
 - Places and Persons account for 80% 100%
 - Events are understood usually only as punctual time issues (battles, discoveries, natural disasters etc.)
- Innovative organization
 - Synthetic issues
 - Long term process & phenomena
 - Rare and important individual works of art and architecture
 - Varying entry points (theme, time, space)

Encyclopedia of the Hellenic World

FOUNDATION OF THE HELLENIC WORLD

Asia Minor
Black Sea
Constantinople
Aegean Archipelago
Boeotia
(Plato)



www.ehw.gr











Examples of online encyclopedias

http://www.bautz.de/bbkl/index.shtml

Biographisch-Bibliographisches Kirchenlexikon

http://www.britannica.com/

Encyclopedia Britannica online

http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/

Holocaust Encyclopedia

http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/

New World Encyclopedia

http://www.easypedia.gr/index.html

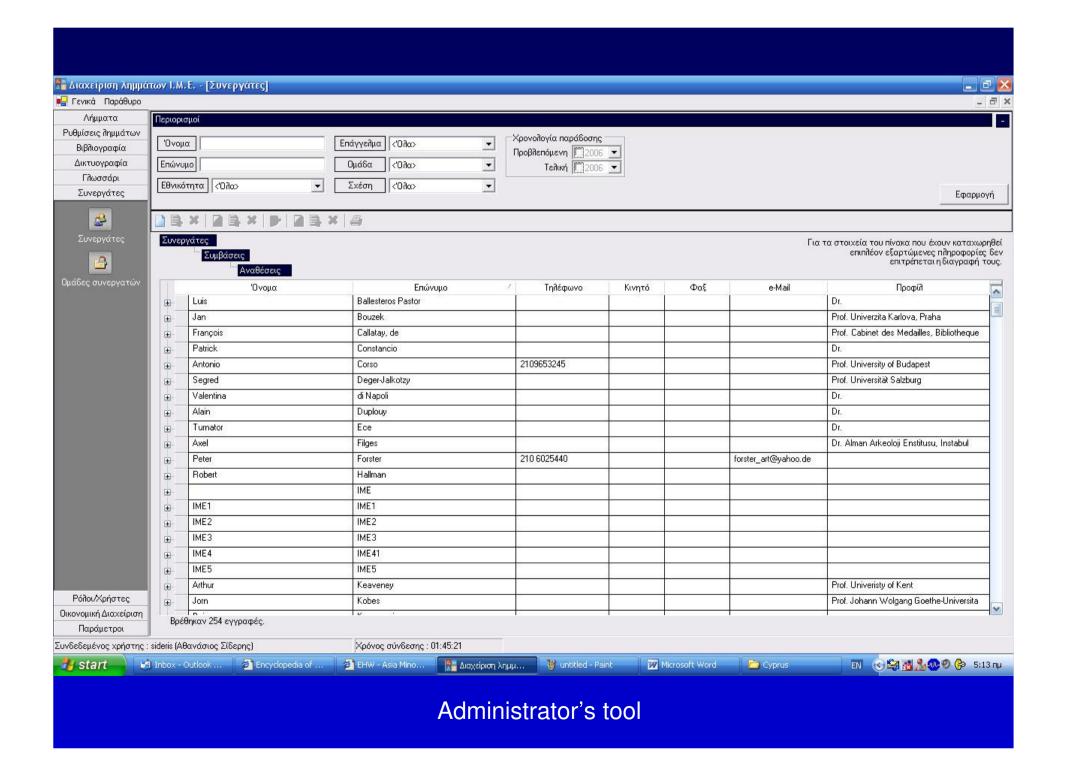
Ελληνική εγκυκλοπαίδεια / Greek encyclopedia

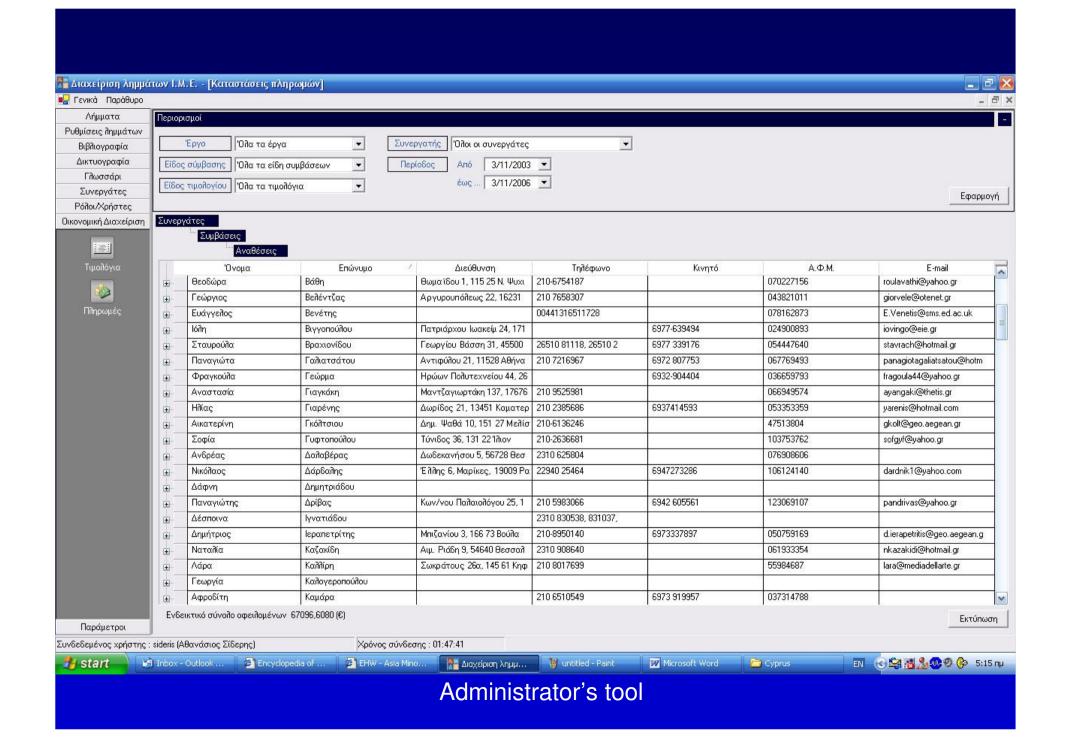
http://livepedia.gr

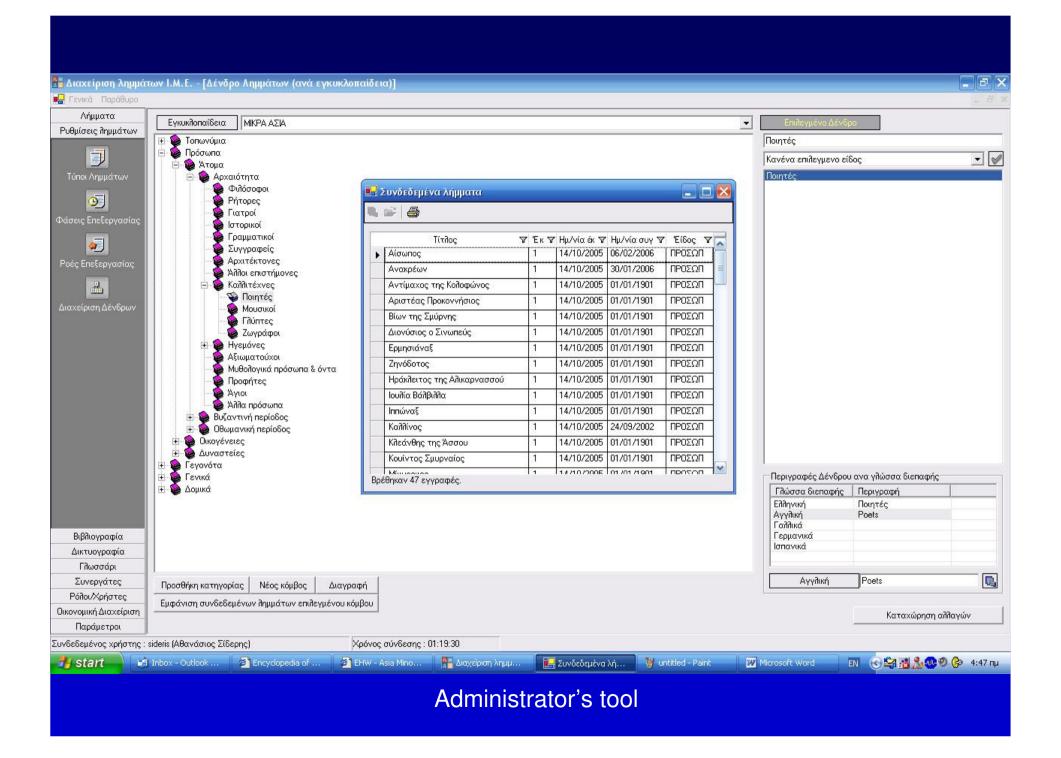
Ελληνική ελεύθερη εγκυκλοπαίδεια / Greek free encyclopedia

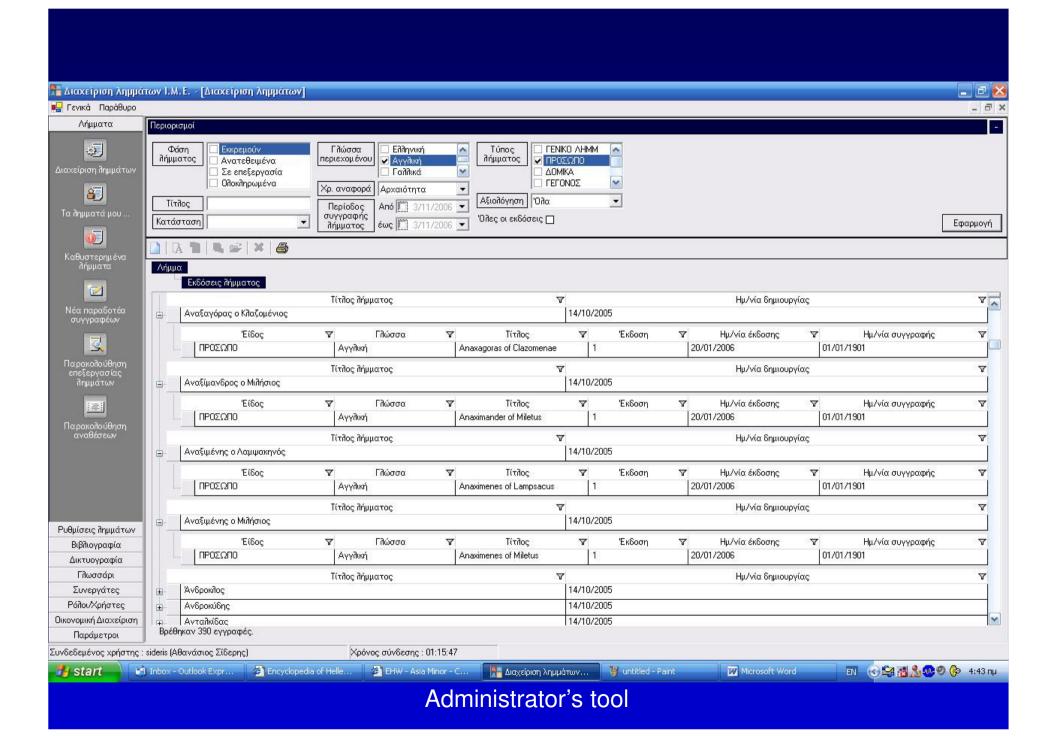
Some data about the project of EHW

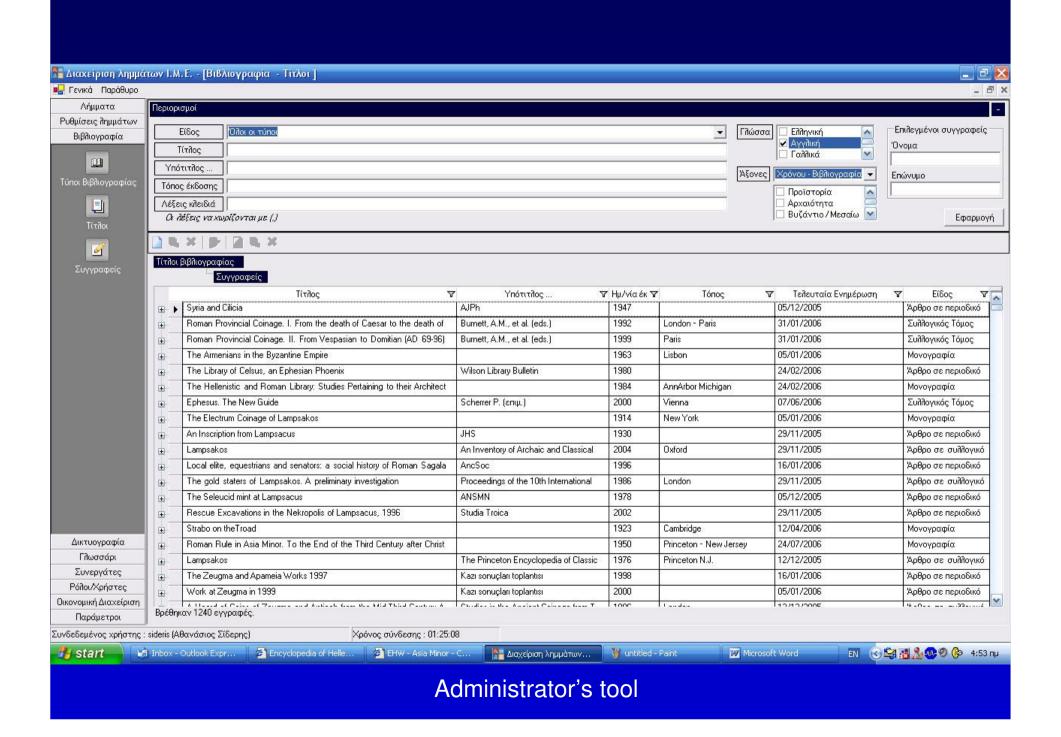
- Project started in 1999
- Implemented in several stages, between 2001 and 2012... (some funded by EU and national funds)
- Each volume follows its own concept
- Most extended: Asia Minor with some 3000 entries – today ready approx. 2000
- Worked more than 50 in house researchers and developers (30+ historians & archaeologists)
- More than 250 external contributors and experts

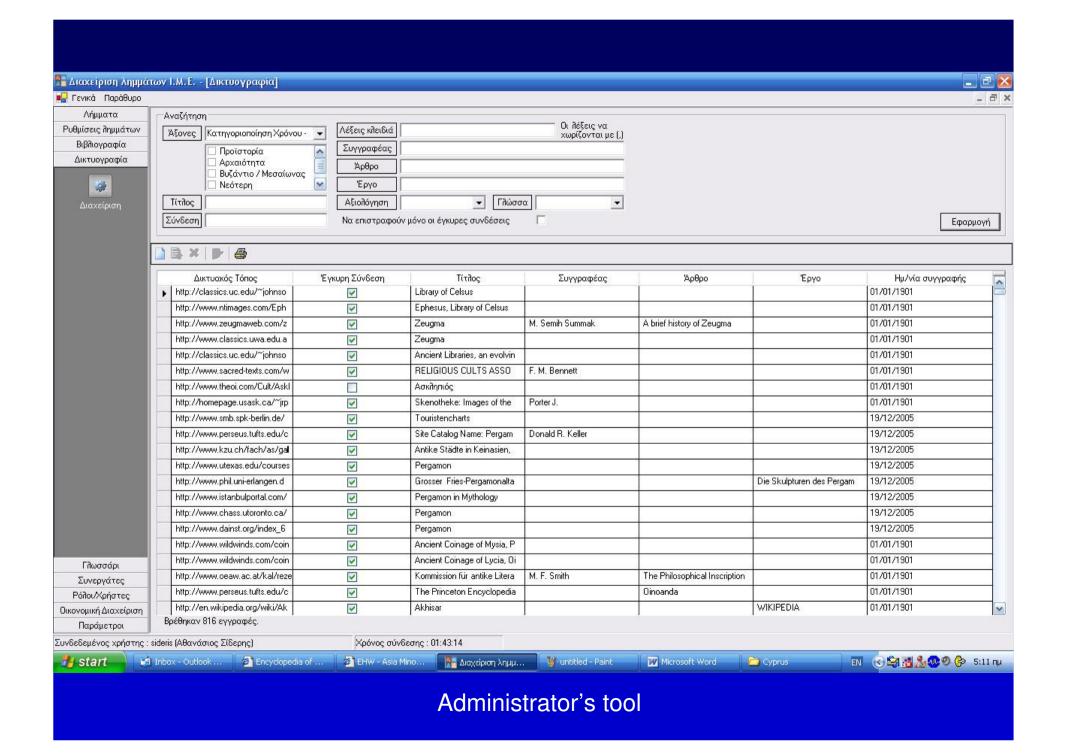


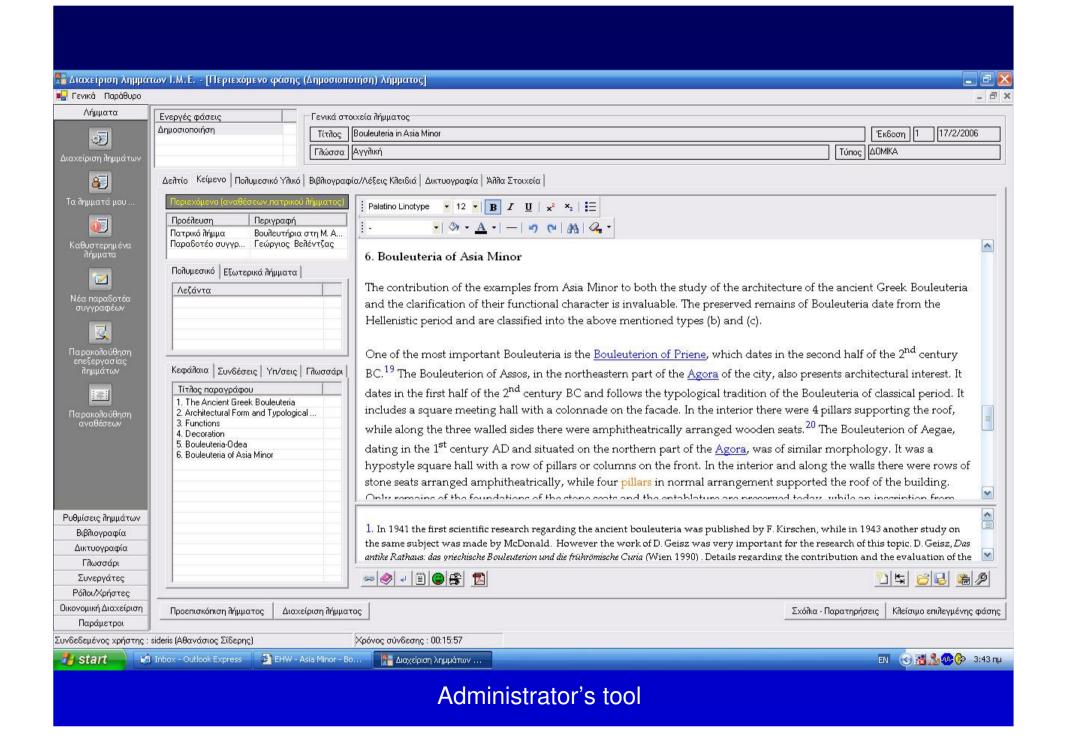


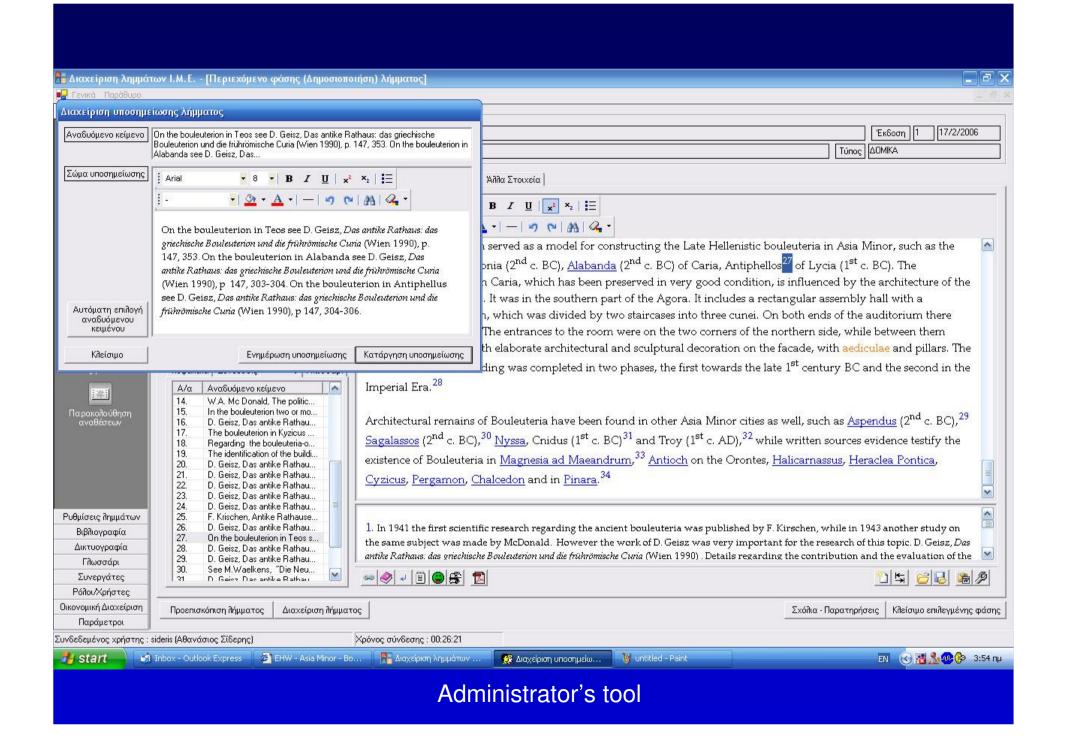


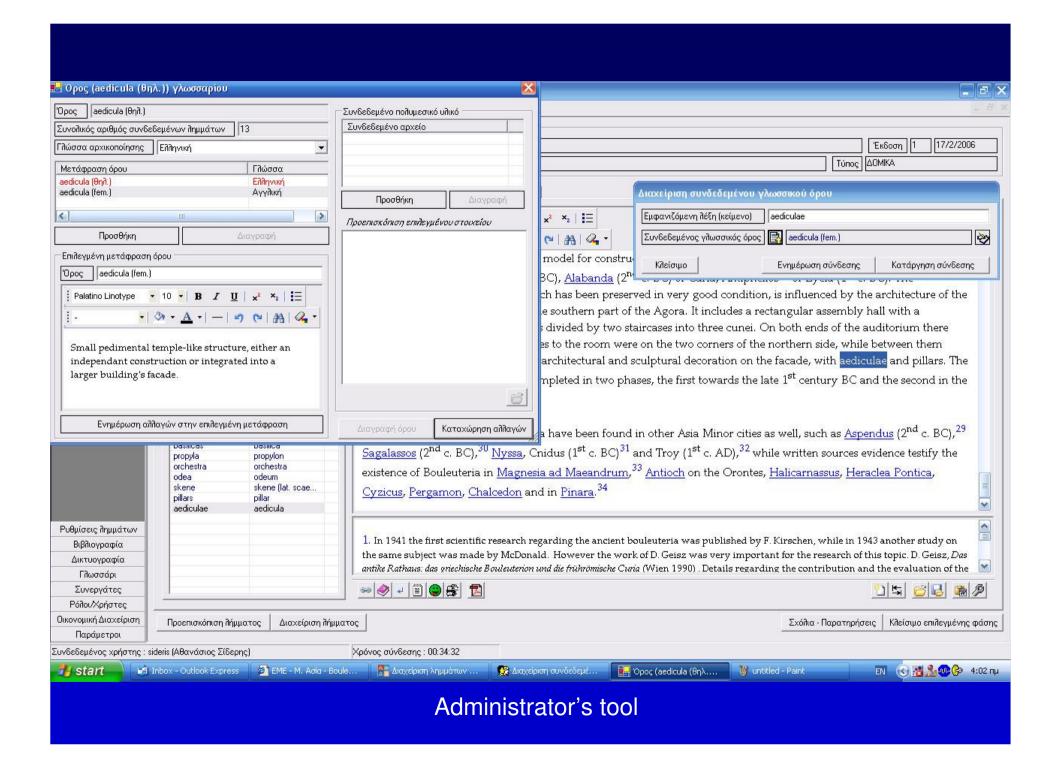


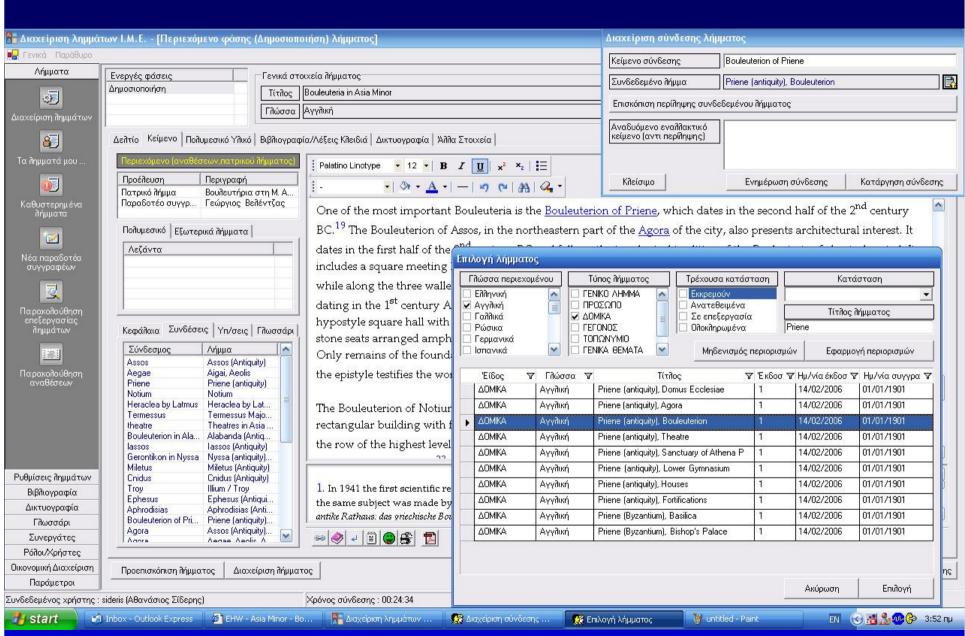


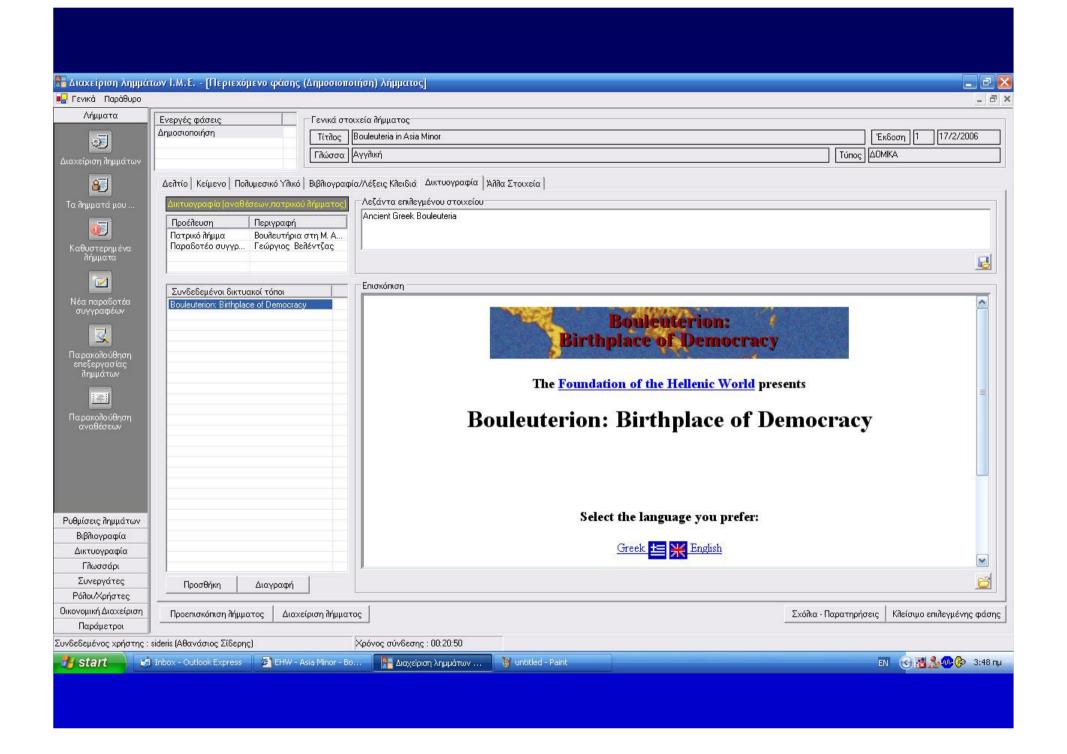


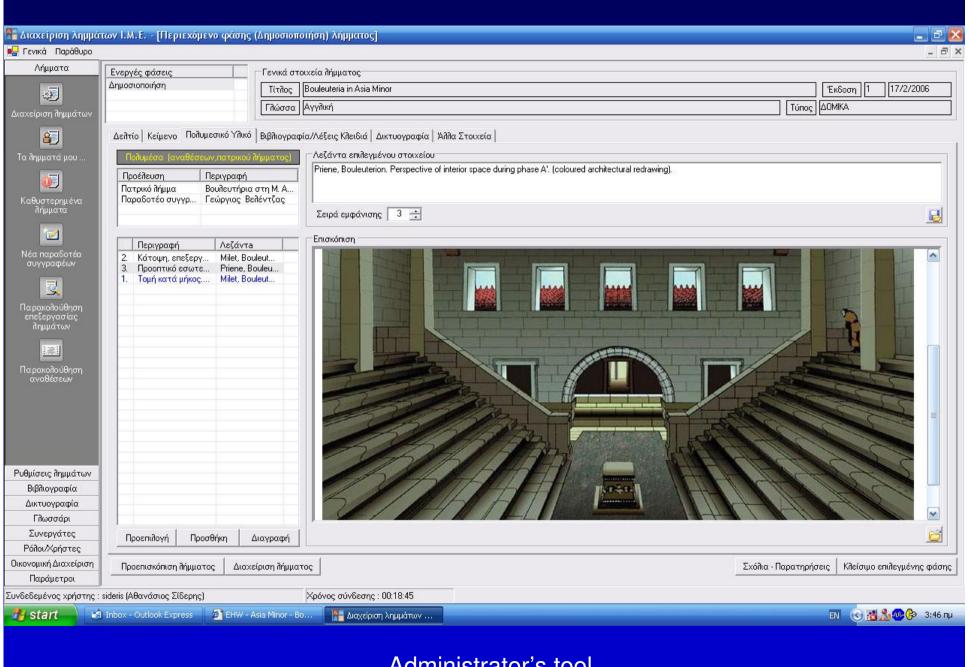


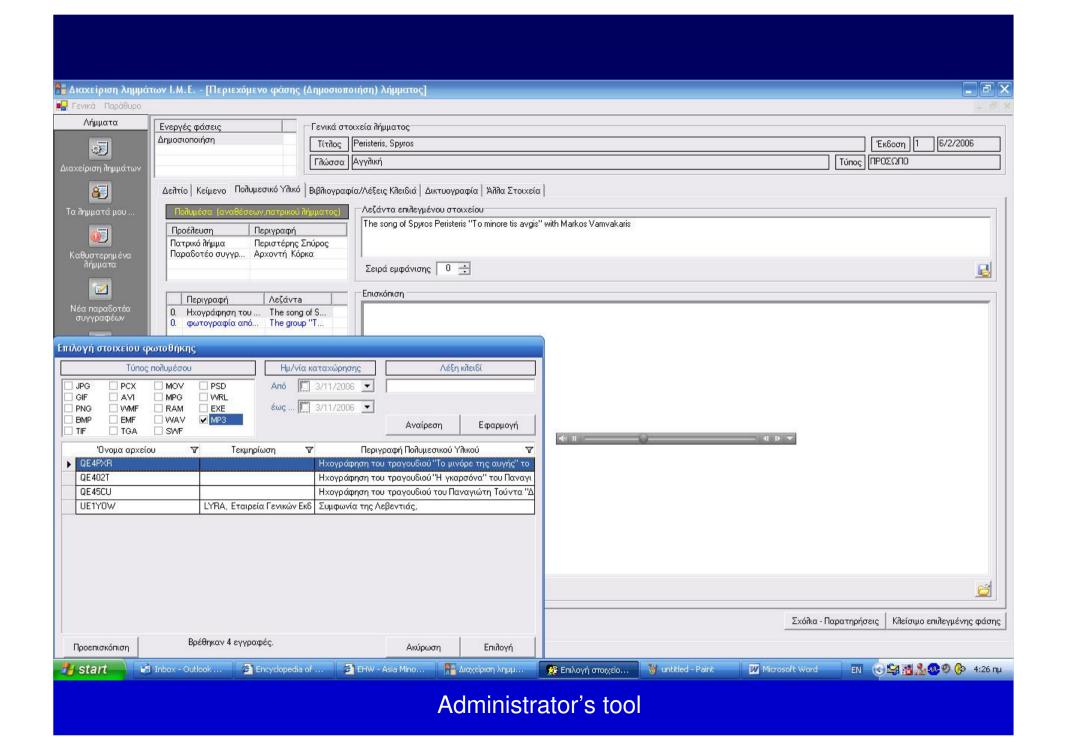


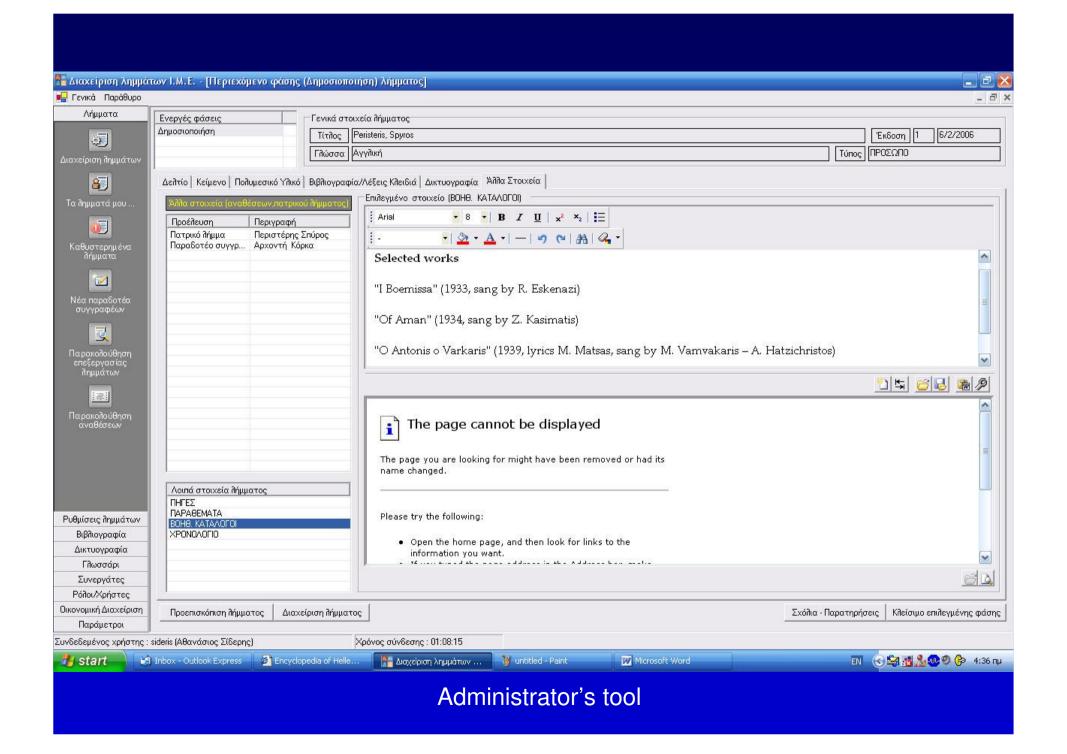


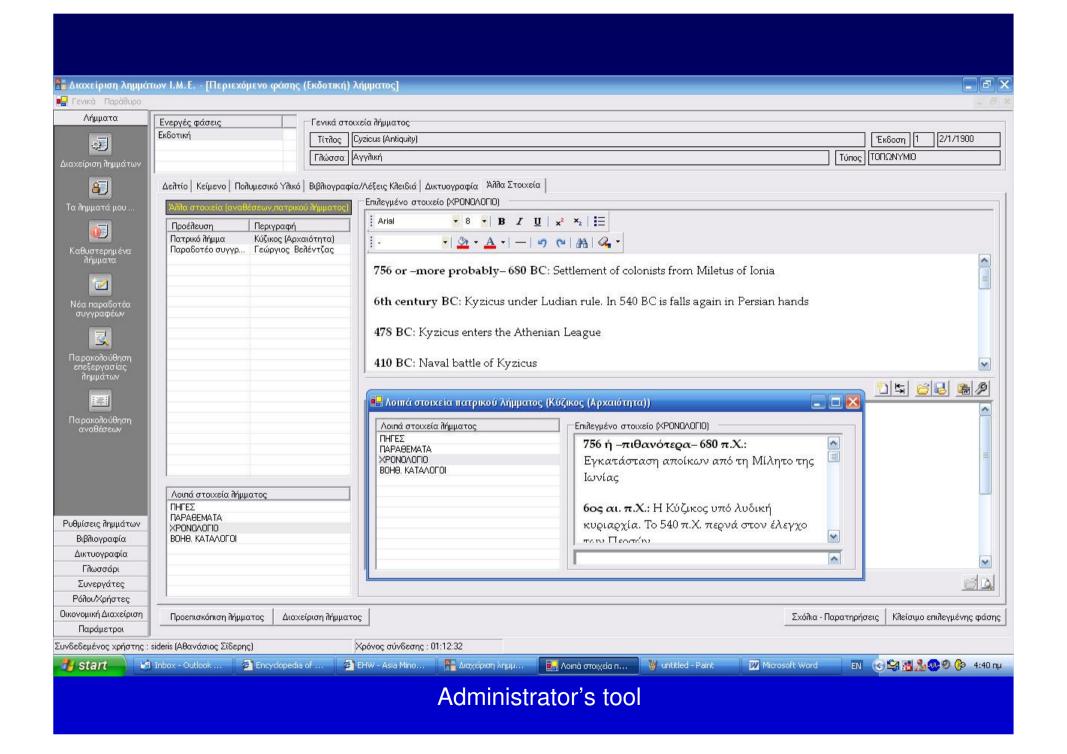
















INSTRUCTIONS

SITE MAP

advanced search

Digital Encyclopaedia of the Hellenic World

The Encyclopaedia of the Hellenic World (EHW) is an original electronic project aiming at collecting, recording, documenting, presenting and promoting the historical data that testify to the presence of Hellenic culture throughout time and space.

Methodology ***



Allocated electronic volumes

Asia Minor

Volume I

Presentation, documentation, and analysis of Hellenic history and culture in Asia Minor

Black Sea

Volume II

Presentation of the rich history and culture of the Black Sea shores with emphasis on the Hellenic presence.

Constantinople

Volume III

The turbulent history of a city that was founded by Megarian colonists and developed into an imperial capital.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

An all-encompassing bibliography.

WEBLIOGRAPHY

Search for relevant websites.

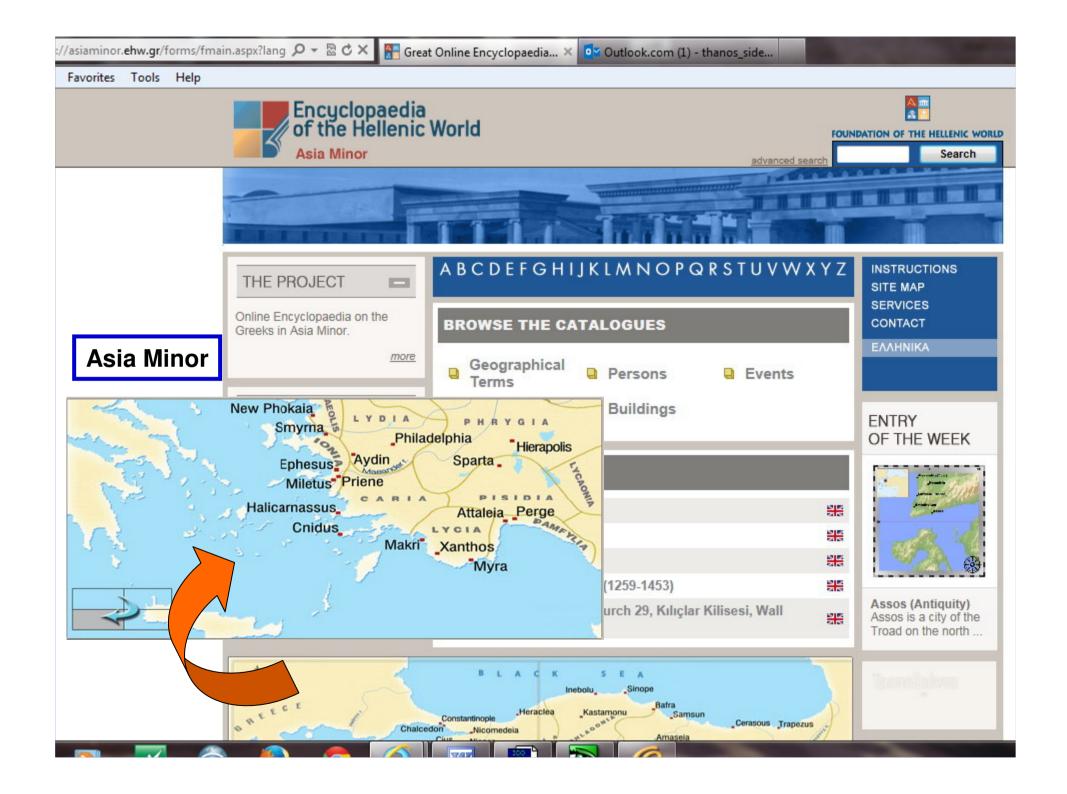
Encyclopaedia Gate

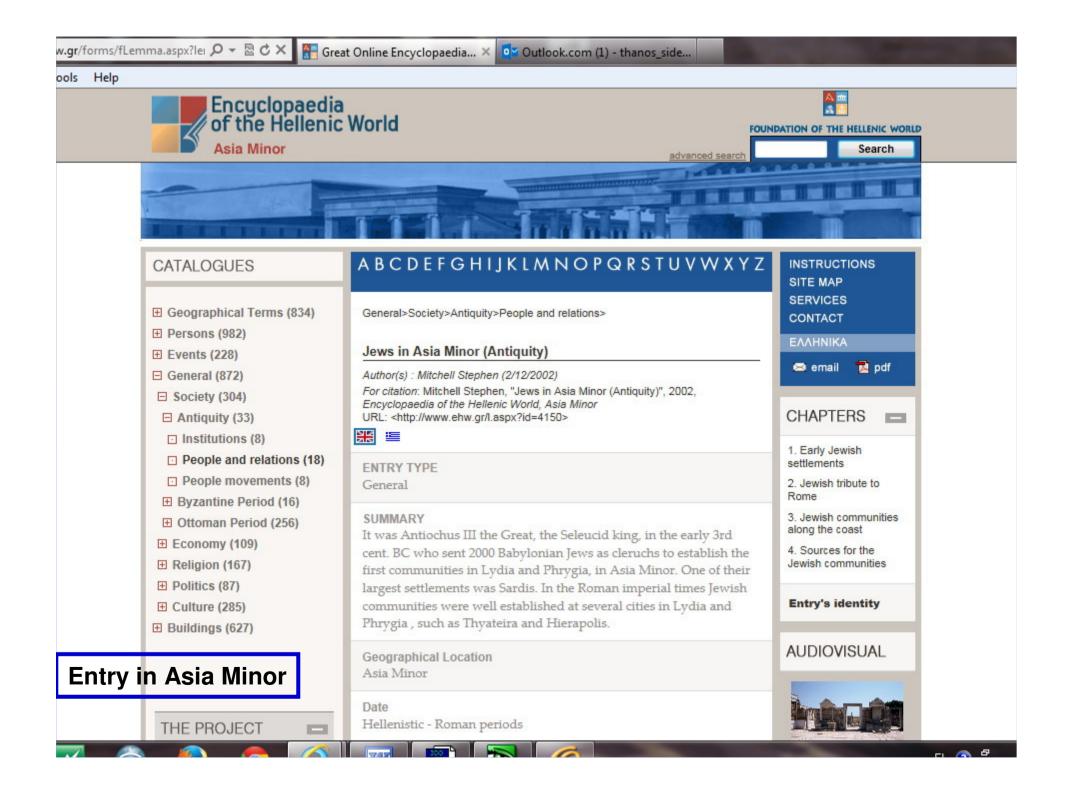
Cultural Portal of the Aegean Archipelago

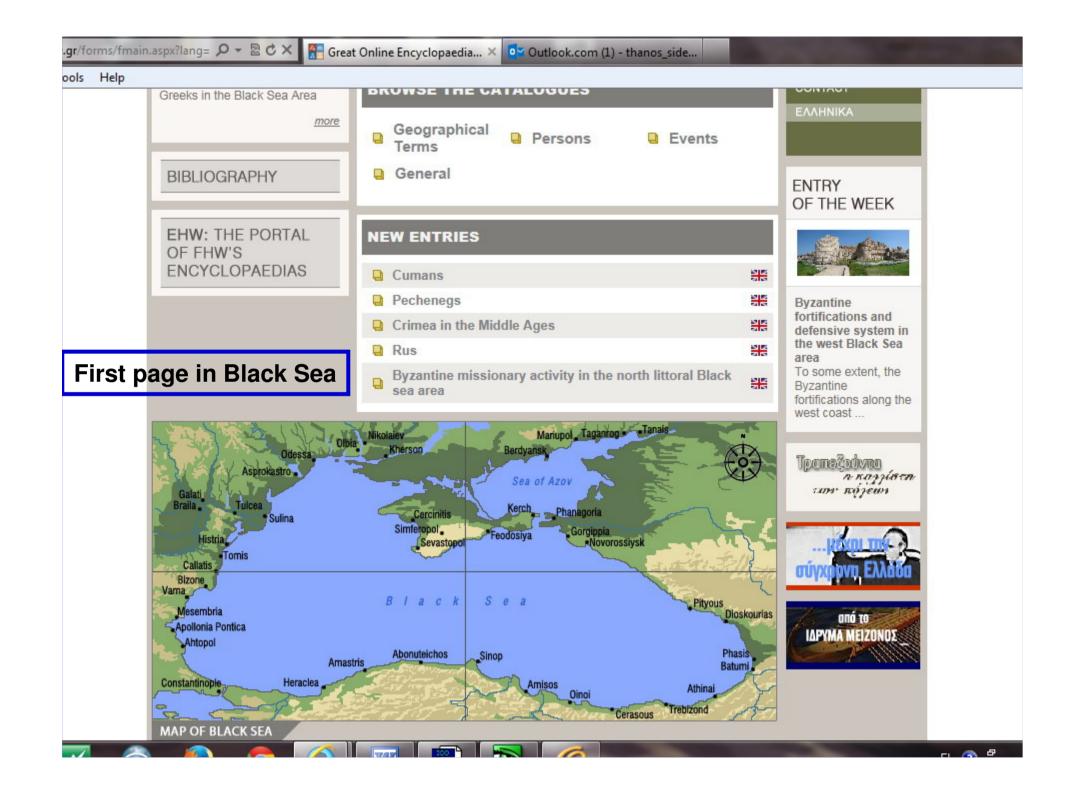
A digital encyclopaedia on the history and

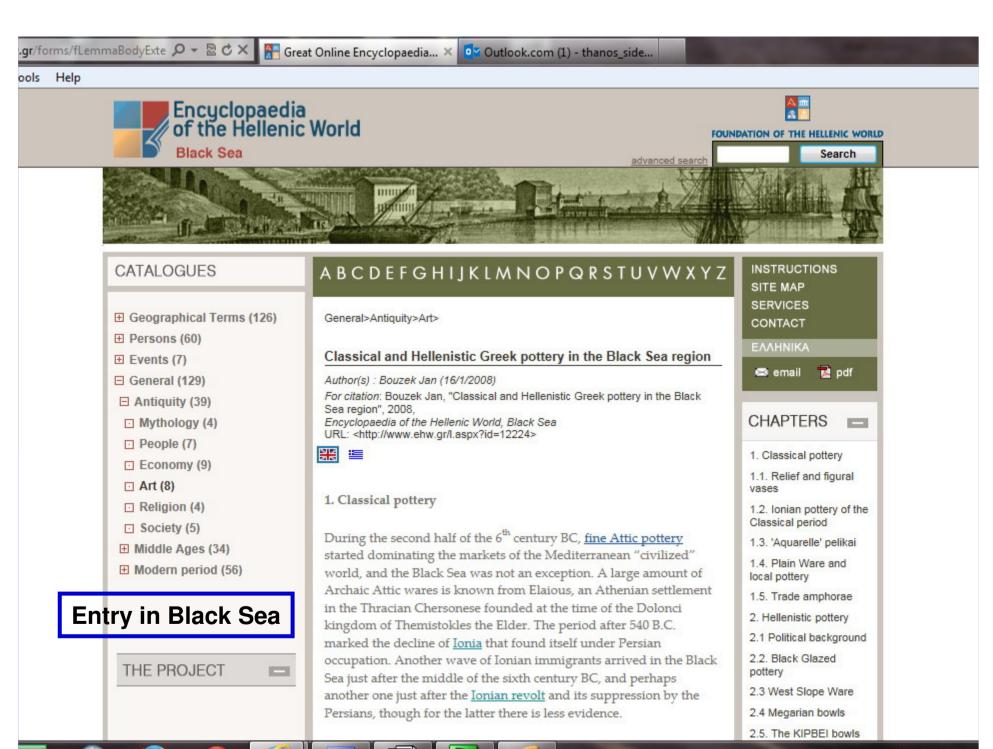
Boeotia. A digital cultural encyclopaedia

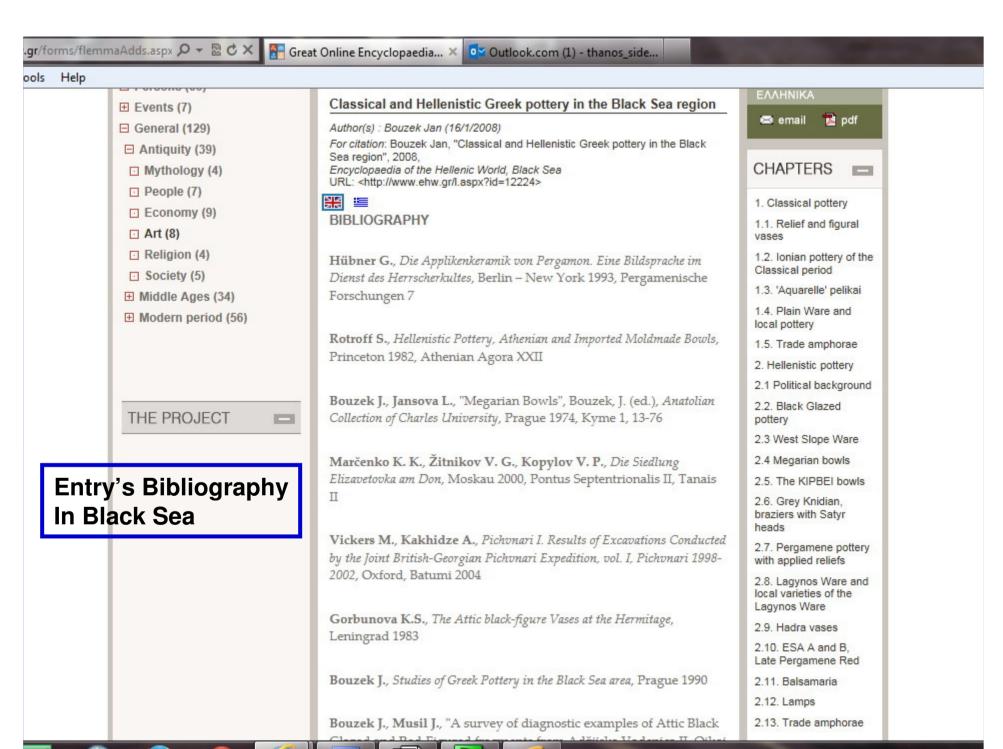
A free online encyclopaedia with historical, archaeological and cultural information about Boeotia through time.



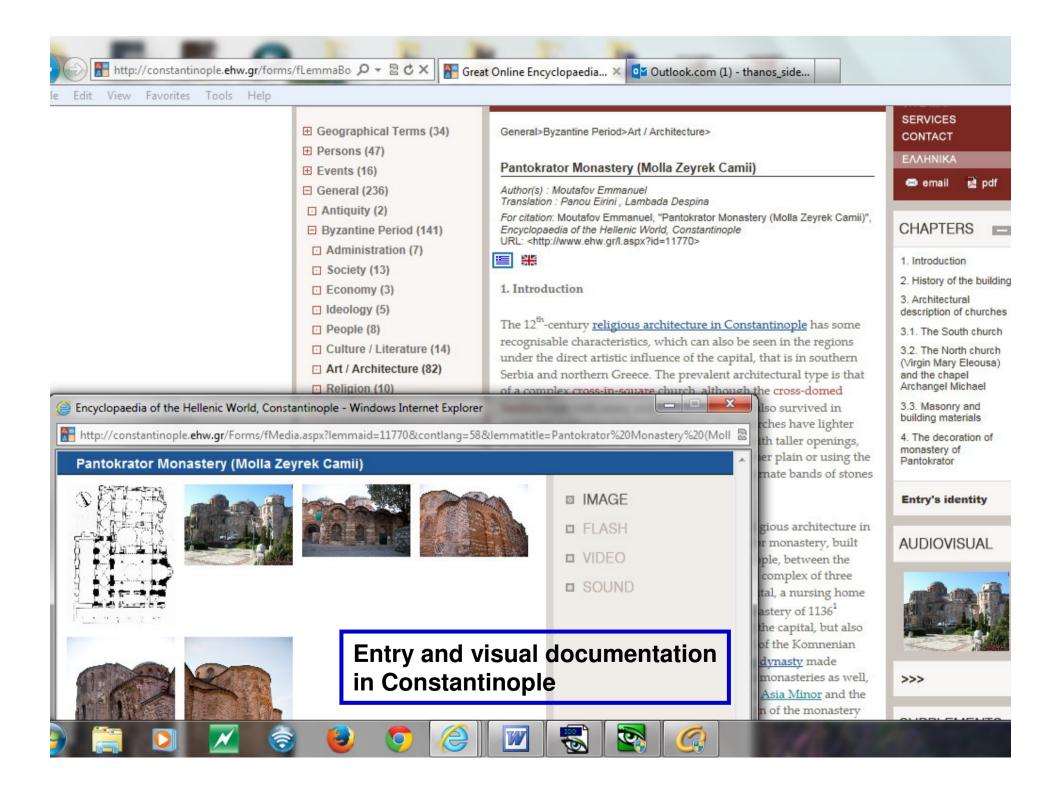


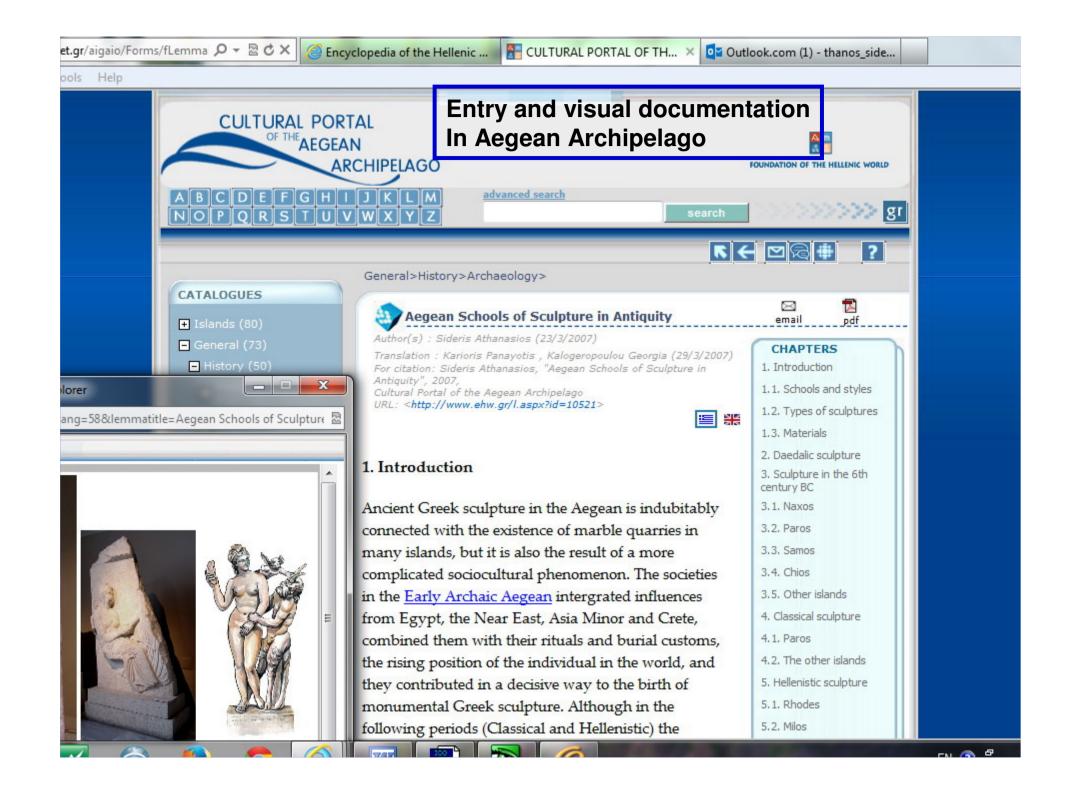














Boeotia first page





SITE MAP SERVICES CONTACT EAAHNIKA advanced search Search

The project

- > Short Description
- Methodology
- · Creative Team

EHW: THE PORTAL OF FHW ENCYCLOPEDIAS

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Browse the catalogues

> Geographical Terms

> General

- erms
- Persons
- > History

Entry of the day

EHW Bibliography



Plataea (Antiquity)
Ancient settlement located in SWBoeotia, inhabited since the
Middle Neolithic ...

Search on Boeotia map

















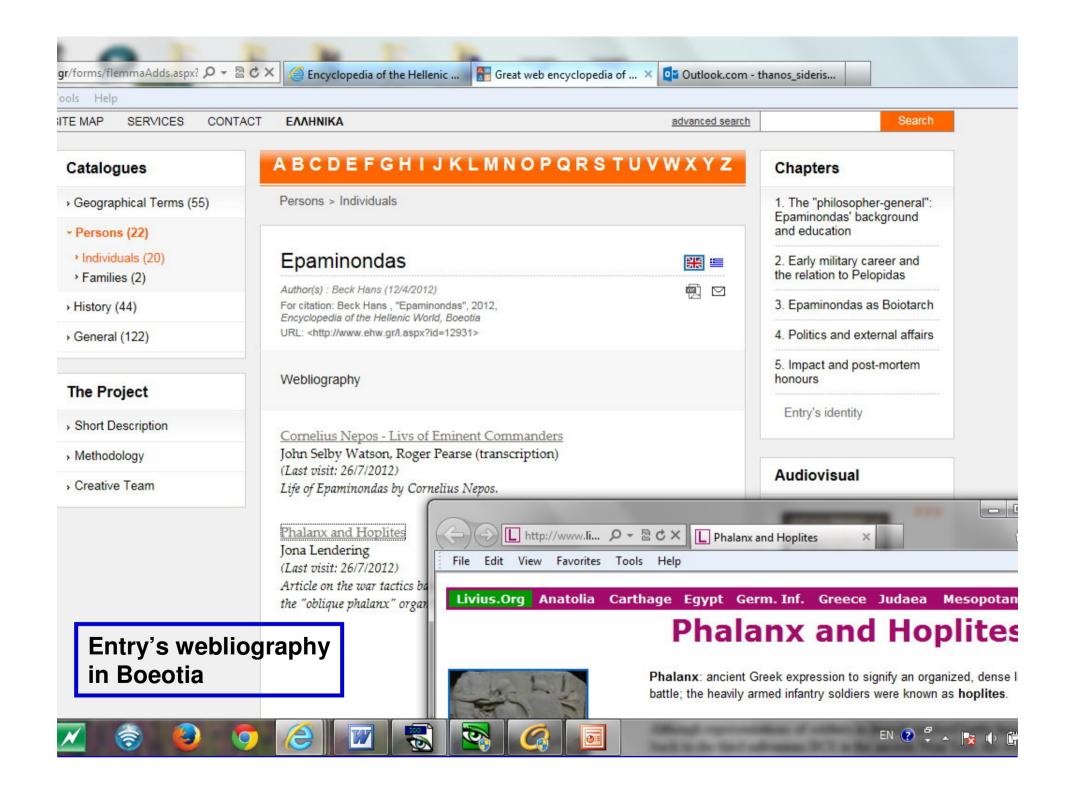








>>>





planimetrie

Entry's identity

1. I teatri della Beozia: storia degli studi e fonti antiche

For citation: Germani Marco, "I teatri della Beozia antica",

Encyclopedia of the Hellenic World, Boeotia

URL: <http://www.ehw.gr/l.aspx?id=16729>

La Beozia costituisce una delle regioni del mondo antico più densamente interessate dalla presenza di teatri. Allo stato attuale, nella regione si possono annoverare ben dieci strutture di cui nove teatri ed un telesterion. All'interno di questo dato bisogna fare un'ulteriore distinzione tra teatri archeologicamente noti e teatri attestati soltanto dalle fonti antiche.

Gli scavi archeologici condotti nella regione a partire dalla metà dell'80 fino alla fine degli anni '90 del secolo scorso hanno permesso il recupero e l'identificazione di un numero piuttosto basso di strutture (Cheronea

Audiovisual



Mythology (2) Economy (13) > Environment (9)

Religion (6)

Society (20)

Architecture (18)

> Fortifications (4) Archaeology (59)

Popular Culture (6)

Churches / Monastries (11)

Art (9)

Publications

• Sideris A., Semantic organization of data for digital encyclopaedia of historical content (Iraklio 2005, FoRTH), publication in Greek, URL:

http://www.ics.forth.gr/CULTUREstandards/paradotea/paradotea final/K13 egkykopeideie sV0.pdf

• Sideris A., "The Encyclopaedic Concept in the Web Era", in M. Ioannides, D. Arnold, F. Niccolucci, K. Mania (eds), *The e-volution of Information Communication Technology in Cultural Heritage, The 7th International Symposium on Virtual Reality, Archaeology and Cultural Hertitage* VAST (2006), Short Papers, pp. 192-197, URL

http://public-repository.epoch-net.org/publications/VAST2006/short2.pdf

• **Georganas I., Sideris A.**, "The Encyclopaedia of the Hellenic World. Vol 2: The Black Sea", in Tsetskhladze G., Atasoy S, Avram A. et al. (eds.), *The Bosporus: Gateway between Ancient West and East (1st Millenium BC – 5th Century AD).* Proceedings of 4th International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities, Istanbul - 14-18 September 2009, BAR Inter. 2517 (Oxford 2013), pp. 297-299, URL:

http://academia.edu/3821073/The Encyclopedia of the Hellenic World Volume2 The B lack Sea

Thank you!

thanos_sideris@hotmail.com